

The 10th Annual Life in Kyrgyzstan Conference 2024

Organizers: University of Central Asia (UCA), Kyrgyz Republic
 The Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops (IGZ), Germany
 International Security and Development Center (ISDC), Germany

Partners: ACTED, AUCA, World Bank, UNFPA

Venue: Orion Hotel, Bishkek and online on Day 1

Date: October 09-11, 2024

PROGRAM (draft as of Oct 04, 2024)

DAY 1: Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Bishkek time, GMT+6

18:00-19:30 PARALLEL ONLINE SESSIONS

SESSION 1.1 Environmental Change in Central Asia
 Moderator: **Irène Mestre**, Geography, French Institute of Research in Central Asia and AgroParisTech

Alina Bychkova, Nottingham Trent University

Climate change narratives in Central Asia: vulnerability concerns and Soviet heritage

Yumi Toboé, Sorbonne Université

«Understand me... we are businessmen»: Plastics processing companies in the recycling sector in Bishkek

Asel Murzakulova, UCA

Environmental change, agriculture and migration in Tajikistan: a systematic critical literature review

Anastasia Protassov, Université de Lille

Environmental peacebuilding in the Fergana valley: a comparative study of development approaches

SESSION 1.2 Food Security, Self-Sufficiency, and Agri-Economic Development in Central Asia: Insights from Case Studies

Moderator: **Damir Esenaliev**, IGZ/ISDC

Kanat Tilekeyev, UCA

Food self-sufficiency study in Central Asia and the Caucasus: The cases of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

Salima Bekbolotova, IAMO

Food (in)Security Dynamics in Kyrgyzstan, 2013-2022

Emil Begimkulov, Promotionskolleg NRW

Do SME food processors in Central Asia with certification perform better than those without certification? Case study

Md Sofiullah, Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences

Socio-economic assessment of existing forest and agroforestry production systems for walnut and apricot production in Kyrgyzstan

SESSION 1.3 Evolving Identities and Power Dynamics in Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan: From Digital Activism to Decolonial Thought

Moderator: **Bakhytzhan Kurmanov**, UCA

Elvira Isaeva, Ministry of Economy and Commerce KR, Ritsumeikan University

Leader and peer influence: Unraveling the impact of ethical and unethical behaviors on civil servants' motivation in the KR

Philipp Zimmermann, Freie Universität Berlin

The emergence of a decolonial mindset in Kyrgyzstan as a generational phenomenon / conflict? Political socialization of youth in Bishkek

Akira Matsumoto, Hokkaido University

What is Suggested Women Image? An Analysis of Female Representation in Kyrgyz films in 1960s and post-Soviet Era

Bakhytzhhan Kurmanov, UCA

Digital activism and authoritarian legitimation in post-Soviet Central Asia

DAY 2: Thursday, October 10, 2024

Bishkek time, GMT+6

08:00-08:50 **Registration of Participants**

09:00-09:20 **OPENING REMARKS**

Christopher Gerry, Rector, UCA

Timothy O'Connor, President, AUCA

Hugh Riddell, Country Manager, World Bank

Antje Grawe, UN Resident Coordinator in KR

Darragh Fingleton, Country Director, ACTED Kyrgyzstan

Tilman Brück, Professor, Humboldt University, IGZ, ISDC

09:20-10:00 **SESSION 1.1** **15 years of the Life in Kyrgyzstan Study: Academic and Educational Impacts**

Room **KARKYRA**

Damir Esenaliev, IGZ/ISDC

Life in Kyrgyzstan Study: Academic and educational impacts in 15 years

Anwar Naseem, UCA

LiK Dashboard: making the data accessible

10:00-10:40 **PLENARY SESSION**

Moderator: **Christopher Gerry**, UCA

Tchoro Seyitov, First Deputy Ministry of Economy and Commerce of KR

Kyrgyzstan's Development Strategy till 2030

10:40-10:50 **Group Photo**

10:50-11:20 *Coffee Break*

11:20-12:30 **PARALLEL (short) SESSIONS**

SESSION 2.1 **World Bank's Session: Findings from the Recent Research on Kyrgyzstan**

Room **KARKYRA**

Moderator: **Aibek Ashirov**, World Bank

Elizaveta Perova, World Bank

Subnational poverty assessment: Towards Understanding Regional Development Dynamics in the Kyrgyz Republic

Aibek Ashirov, World Bank

Listening to the Kyrgyz Republic findings

Gohar Gyulumyan, World Bank

PARALLEL SESSIONS

SESSION 2.2 **Crafting Resilience, Weaving Communities: Arts, Traditional Crafts, Entrepreneurship and Activism through Women's Stories**

Room **BOSOGO**

Moderator: **Anisa Sabiri**, London Film School

Altyn Kapalova, UCA

Woman, Life, Freedom: The Role of Art in the Struggle for Human Rights in Central Asia

Elena Kolesova, UCA

Crafting Resilience: Women-entrepreneurs, aesthetics, and traditional creative practices in Kyrgyzstan.

Bermet Borubaeva

Resilient city: building urban environment defense women communities in Kyrgyzstan

SESSION 2.3 **Health and Societal Impacts in Central Asia: Progress, Challenges, and Policy Insights**

Room **AKSAY**

Moderator: **Marzhan Akimbaeva**, UCA

Saule Chalbasova, UCA

Health and the Health-related SDGs: Progress, problems and prospects for Kyrgyzstan

Buho Hoshino, Rakuno Gakuen University

The Impact of COVID-19 on Mongolian Nomadic Society

Kadyrbek Sultakeev, AUCA

Impact of Excise Tax on Cigarette Consumption: Evidence from Panel Data in Kyrgyzstan

12:30-13:30 **Lunch**

13:30-15:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

SESSION 2.4 **Sustainable and Healthy Urban Living in Bishkek: The Power of Nature-Based Solutions to Improve Air Quality and Wellbeing**

Room **AKSAY**

Moderator: **Ekaterina Pefilyeva**, UNEP

Andrey Podrezov, Researcher at the Central Asian Institute for Geosciences, PhD in Geographical Sciences, Associate Professor

Review: Nature-based solutions and their potential to address the air pollution challenge in Bishkek

Jeremie Berlioux, Kyrgyz Association for Conservation of Biodiversity

Bioindicators for assessing Bishkek's ecosystem health, resilience, and human wellbeing

Taalaibek Talantbek uulu, IOM

Enhancing Migrants' Awareness on Air Pollution and Moving Towards a "Healthy City Vision" in Bishkek

Azat Muradylov, Public Fund "MoveGreen"

SESSION 2.5 Livestock Production in Central Asia: from Pastures to Markets

Room **KARKYRA**

Moderator: **Sarah Robinson**, Justus Liebig University Giessen

Zhyrgalbek Kozhombardiev, Public Foundation CAMP Alatoo

The state of pastures in Kyrgyzstan under conditions of continuous growth in livestock numbers and climate change

Viktoriya Krylova, Kazakh-German University

Pasture resource management in Kazakhstan in the context of climate change

Sarah Robinson and Martin Petrick, Justus Liebig University Giessen

Land access and feeding strategies in a Kazakhstani rangeland system

Baimat Niiazaliev, UCA

Determinants of milk market participation among small dairy farmers in Kyrgyzstan

SESSION 2.6 Session by Mercy Corps and WFP: findings and lessons from school feeding programs in Kyrgyzstan

Room **BOSOGO**

Moderator: **Zalkar Kamalov**, Mercy Corps

Aizhan Erisheva, WFP

Assessing the impact of climate change on the existing nutritional gaps and the role of the school feeding in addressing these issues

Izzat Kurmangaliyev, Adzhar Doolotova, Mercy Corps; Rakiia Abdurasulova, WFP

Sustainability of School Meals Programme in the KR

Rakiia Abdurasulova, WFP

Sustainability Assessment

Federico Ercolano, Clare Ondere, Mercy Corps (online)

Value for Money study

15:00-15:30 *Coffee Break*

15:30-16:40 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

SESSION 2.7 Climate Change and Agricultural Adaptation: Insights from Central Asia's Experience and Data

Room **KARKYRA**

Moderator: **Kanat Tilekeyev**, UCA

Nurbek Madmarov, AUCA

The impact of Climate Change on Agricultural Development in the Central Asian Countries: Evidence from Panel Data Analysis

Begaiym Emileva, IAMO

The role of smartphone-based weather information acquisition on climate change perception accuracy: Cross country evidence from Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan

Kadyrbek Sultakeev, AUCA

Climate change, multiple shocks and household adaptation strategies in Kyrgyzstan

SESSION 2.8 Transformational Roles of Women in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Mongolia

Room **AKSAY**
Moderator: **Troy Steinberg**, Oxford University

Troy Steinberg, Oxford University
Women in herding societies: directions from Mongolia

Zalina Enikeeva, UCA
Women in independent Kyrgyzstan: from the shuttle trade to digital era

Chieko Hirota, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
Gender Norms and Pattern Creation in Kazakh Society

SESSION 2.9 Translocality, Entrepreneurship, and Middle Class Across Eurasia: Kyrgyzstan's 'First Capitalists' Since the Late Soviet Era.'
Author-Critic Forum

Room **BOSOGO**
Chair and discussant **Prof Tilman Brueck**, Humboldt University of Berlin, IGZ, ISDC

Discussants
Dr Damir Esenaliev, IGZ/ISDC, **Dr Asel Murzakulova**, UCA
Author

Philipp Shroeder, Nazarbayev University / ISDC

16:40-17:50 **PLENARY SESSION**

Room **KARKYRA**
Moderator: **Kanat Tilekeyev**, UCA

Keynote Speech by Prof Martin Petrick, Justus Liebig University Giessen
The Economics of Livestock in Central Asia

18:00-21:00 *Reception at Orion Hotel*

DAY 3: Friday, October 11, 2024

08:00-08:50 **Registration**

09:00-10:30 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

SESSION 3.1 Economic Dynamics and Social Impact in Kyrgyzstan: Trade, Migration, and Policy Perspectives

Room **KARKYRA**
Moderator: **Bakhytzhhan Kurmanov**, UCA

Elvira Kurmanalieva, Independent Researcher
Does Intra-Industry Trade Provide Conditions for Economic Growth in Kyrgyzstan

Bakytbek Tynaliev, Independent researcher
Analyzing the Impact of Tax Policy on Diverse Population Groups through a Gender Lens

Elena Kolesova, UCA
Alternative ways of reading the Russian invasion of Ukraine: narrating Naryn's economic

Yuanhang Wang, Texas A&M University
Remittance, Perception of Security, and Incidence of Violence in Kyrgyzstan

SESSION 3.2 Migration and Local Income Generation

Room **AKSAY**
 Moderator: **Anwar Naseem, UCA**

Isabel Lambrecht, IFPRI
Income Aspirations and Migration as an Investment: Evidence from Rural Tajikistan

Hiroyuki Takeshima, IFPRI
Does climate change encourage international labor migration? Evidence from rural Tajikistan

Jovidon Aliev, IFPRI
Does migration drive or impede agricultural productivity? Panel Data Evidence from Khatlon Province in Tajikistan
Anwar Naseem, UCA
Remittances and household consumption: evidence from the Life in Kyrgyzstan dataset

SESSION 3.3 Capacity Building and Skills Acquisition for Academic Scholars in Central Asia: Experience from International Mentoring Program

Room **BOSOGO**
 Moderator: **Martin Petrick, Justus Liebig University Giessen**

Meerim Nurbaeva, Association of International Scientists from Central Asia
Networking in Science for a Better Future: The Association of International Scientists from Central Asia

Gulnara Dzhunushalieva, UCA
Experiences from the SDG Nexus Network Mentorship program in Central Asia

Johanna Orellana, University of Cuenca, Ecuador
The International Women in Science Mentoring Program in Ecuador

Sarah Robinson, Justus Liebig University Giessen
A mentor's experience of the International Women in Science Mentoring Program (10min)

Assemgul Bukutova, Leila Salimova, Olga Romanovich, Azamat Kaliev
Lessons learned from mentees' and mentors' experience (20min)

10:30-11:00 *Coffee Break*

11:00-12:30 SESSION 3.4 UNFPA's Session: Demography and Population Dynamics

Room **KARKYRA**
 Moderator: **Asel Turgunova, UNFPA**

Gulkhumar Abdullaeva, Rimma Chynybaeva, National Statistics Committee
Analytical book based on the results of the Census 2022

Albina Ainidinova, Daniyar Adylbekov, Academy of Public Administration
Left-behind Children of Labor Migrants: Problems and State Response

Maksat Alibayev, Aliya Tashirova, Academy of Public Administration
NEET Youth in Kyrgyzstan

Zhanar Konys, ECARES and CRED
A study of son preference in Kyrgyzstan: Insights from Historical and Contemporary Data

SESSION 3.5 Food Security, Diet Diversity and Gender in Rural Tajikistan

Room **AKSAY**

Moderator: **Isabel Lambrecht**, IFPRI

Bekhzod Egamberdiev, IAMO

Household resilience and coping strategies to food insecurity: An empirical analysis from Tajikistan

Hiroyuki Takeshima, IFPRI

Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Diversification and Dietary Diversity: Panel Data Evidence

Tanzila Ergasheva, Tajik Academy of Agricultural Sciences; Mohru Mardonova, IFPRI

Eating from the same plate? Gender and intra-household differences in food consumption behavior from Khatlon Province, Tajikistan

Mohru Mardonova, IFPRI

Double burden or burdenless? The impact of men's migration on women's empowerment in rural Tajikistan

SESSION 3.6 **Climate Change and Natural Resources in Central Asia: From Glaciers to Community Solutions**

Room **BOSOGO**

Moderator: **Ari Weiss**, Impact Initiative

Nazgul Turdumatova, IMPACT Acted

Applied research on climate change impacts on natural resource management and community-based solutions in the Isfana watershed

Ryskul Usubaliev, Central Asian Institute for Applied Geosciences

Glacier Dynamics and Environmental Change: Monitoring Glacial Retreat in Kyrgyzstan

Bernard Musyck, UCA

Assessing snow cover dynamics in Central Asia: Implications for winter tourism development

Ablay Dosmaganbetov, UCA

Decarbonization in Central Asia

12:30-13:30 *Lunch*

13:30-15:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

SESSION 3.7 **Violence, Trafficking, Property and Health: Women Rights Issues in Central Asia**

Room **KARKYRA**

Moderator:

Nazgul Turdubekova, League of Children's Rights Defenders

Women's Property Rights in the Kyrgyz Republic

Aizharkyn Kozhobekova, UCA

Sexualized violence against women with disabilities in Central Asia

Cholponai Saparbekova, Women University EWHA

Countering Exploitation: A Study of Digital Approaches to Combat Human Trafficking in

Guzel Bekenova, Women University EWHA

Maternal Mortality in Kyrgyzstan: Exploring Determinants in the Context of the Three Delays Model

SESSION 3.8 **Oral Histories of Twentieth-Century Kyrgyzstan: Methods, Stories, Possibilities**

Room **AKSAY**

Moderator: **Daniyar Karabaev**, AUCA

Altyn Kapalova, UCA

Voices Beyond the Textbooks: Oral Testimonies of the 1916 Kyrgyz Uprising

Baktybek Isakov, Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University

Echoes of the Empire: Preserving Kyrgyz Elders' Narratives in a Changing Landscape

Tuiumkan Nishanova; Rebekah Ramsay, UCA

Building on Sanzhyra Stories, Learning from Intergenerational Narratives

Aizhamal Biigazieva, UCA

Representation of Women and Women's Stories in Museum Spaces

SESSION 3.9 **Gender, Media, and Social Cohesion in Kyrgyzstan: Exploring the Role of Women, Media Narratives, and Conflict Dynamics**

Room **BOSOGO**

Moderator: **Elnura Kazakbaeva**, Evidence Central Asia

Kanyshai Kasymova, Evidence Central Asia

Social Cohesion: Narratives Influencing Social Cohesion in Various Areas of Kyrgyzstan

Elnura Kazakbaeva, Evidence Central Asia

The Role of Women in the Kyrgyz Republic and Enhancing Women's Roles at the Community Level

Sofiyan Ushirova, Evidence Central Asia

Media and Conflict

Elnura Kazakbaeva, Evidence Central Asia

Violence against women in politics in Kyrgyzstan: the experience of women candidates in the 2021 local elections

15:00-15:30 *Coffee Break*

15:30-17:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

SESSION 3.10 **Gender and Livelihoods in Mountainous Central Asia**

Room **KARKYRA**

Moderator: **Maksim Kulikov**, UCA

Roy Sidle, Arnaud Caiserman, UCA (online)

Multifaceted challenges facing women farmers in the Pamir: climate dynamics, natural hazards, and social inequities

Aslam Qadamov, UCA

Challenges and Strategies for Strengthening Yak-based livelihoods in Murgab, Tajikistan

Azamat Azarov, UCA

Gender-Specific Perceptions and Impacts of Climate Change on Rural Communities in

Jannike Van Bruggen, Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences; Gulbara Omorova, Institute of Water Problems and Hydroenergy

Adaptive capacity of apricot farming communities in response to changing water availability in Kyrgyzstan

SESSION 3.11 **Old problems, New Challenges: Exploring the Water Governance Research Agenda in Central Asia**

Room **AKSAY**

Moderator:

Iskandar Abdullaev, SNS Solutions Company; **Martin Petrick**, Justus Liebig University of Gießen

A new policy research agenda for water governance in Central Asia

Martin Petrick, Justus Liebig University of Gießen

Evolving institutions of sustainability: A dynamic model of historical water governance transformations in Central Asia

Asel Murzakulova, UCA

Current dynamics of Central Asian hydro-politics in the context of climate change

SESSION 3.12 **Challenges and Opportunities for the Development of the Kyrgyz Language Ecosystem in Media**

Room **BOSOGO**

Moderator: **Mukaram Toktogulova**

Asel Murzakulova, Eleri Bitekchi, Mukaram Toktogulova, Gulzada Stanaliev

Research report on the challenges and opportunities for developing the Kyrgyz language ecosystem in media

Akylay Baimatova, Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic

Problems of the translation of works of epic poetry

Panel Discussion among the session participants